

Message Text

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51
ORIGIN EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 /023 R

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P 181615Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: AEROLINEAS (AA) CHARTER FLIGHT APPLICATION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8324

1. CAB HAS CONFIRMED THAT PAN AM RECENTLY WITHDREW ITS APPLICATION TO ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS TO ARGENTINA. ALSO PAN AM/WASHINGTON LEARNED FROM PAN AM REP IN BUENOS AIRES THAT AA PLANS TO WITHDRAW ITS CHARTER APPLICATION FILED BEFORE CAB BECAUSE CHARTERER REFUSES TO PAY IN US DOLLARS AS REQUESTED BY AA. DELAY IN APPROVAL OF CAB AUTHORIZATION APPARENTLY NOT A FACTOR. NEITHER CAB NOR, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE YET BEEN NOTIFIED OF AA'S PLAN TO CANCEL. ACCORDINGLY, BEFORE APPROACHING NEME, EMBASSY SHOULD FIRST ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM STATUS OF AA CHARTER FLIGHTS THROUGH LOCAL SOURCES, INCLUDING BUENOS AIRES PAN AM REP. IF AA DOES INTEND TO CANCEL, EMBASSY SHOULD PROCEED ALONG GENERAL LINES OUTLINED PARA 5 REFTEL AND ALSO INFORM NEME THAT SOURCES INDICATE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM NO LONGER EXISTS BECAUSE OF AA CANCELLATION.

2. YOU SHOULD PROPOSE TO NEME FOLLOWING CHARTER REGIME TO
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HANDLE FUTURE CASES OF THIS TYPE: CAB PREPARED TO TAKE

ACTION ON ARGENTINE CHARTER APPLICATIONS WHEN ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES INDICATE THEY PREPARED TAKE TIMELY ACTION ON ANY APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY US CARRIERS. WE WILL PROCESS

FUTURE ARGENTINE APPLICATIONS WITH SIMILAR SPEED WITH WHICH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES PROCESS CHARTER APPLICATIONS BY US CARRIERS. ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, SIGNAL ARGENTINE WILLINGNESS TO JOIN US IN CONDUCTING OUR BILATERAL CIVAIR RELATIONS ON PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AND COMITY. PAST DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY US CHARTER OPERATORS IN OBTAINING TIMELY AUTHORIZATION FROM ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE LED TO LOSS IN ECONOMIC VALUE OF THEIR CHARTERS. COURSE OF EVENTS INITIATED BY THESE DELAYS IS NOW RESULTING IN INCONVENIENCE FOR ARGENTINE CARRIERS. AN INFORMAL AGREEMENT OF THE TYPE ENVISAGED ABOVE WOULD BENEFIT THE CARRIERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. IF AA IS NOT GOING TO CANCEL ITS US CHARTER FLIGHTS YOU SHOULD PROPOSE ABOVE CHARTER REGIME WITH FOLLOWING CHANGE: CAB READY TO APPROVE CHARTER APPLICATIONS UNDER REFERENCE UPON RECEIPT OF ASSURANCE THAT ALL PENDING AND FUTURE APPLICATIONS OF US CHARTER OPERATORS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT AND EQUITABLE CONSIDERATION. WE WILL PROCESS FUTURE ARGENTINE APPLICATION...ETC.

4. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY ACCURACY OF ARGENTINE STATISTICS SUBMITTED REFTEL. CAB RECORDS SHOW THAT IN 1973 AA OPERATED 33 PASSENGER CHARTERS INTO US AND IN 1974 (THROUGH JUNE) THEY OPERATED 12. ALL PASSENGER CHARTERS WERE FOR US ORIGIN TRAFFIC. CARGO CHARTER STATISTICS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 27 IN 1973 (NONE BY AA); 40 IN FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1974 (6 BY AA). EVEN IF WE ACCEPT ON BASIS ARGENTINE STATISTICS THAT US FLEW MORE CARGO CHARTERS THAN ARGENTINA, THERE MAY NOT BE GENUINE OVERALL BALANCE SINCE ARGENTINA FLEW MORE PASSENGER CHARTERS, AND ALL OF THESE WERE FROM US ORIGINS.

5. FYI: CAB DECISION MAY BE MADE SOON TO PERMIT AA CHARTERS (IF AA APPLICATIONS ARE NOT BEING WITHDRAWN) IN VIEW LACK OF FIRM LEGAL GROUNDS FOR CONTINUED DENIAL.
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ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD PROMPTLY TRY TO USE DELAY IN ISSUING PERMIT (IF IT TURNS OUT APPLICATION IS NOT BEING WITHDRAWN) AS LEVERAGE IN OBTAINING FAVORABLE ARGENTINE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT, ASSUMING POSSIBILITY TO EXERCISE THIS LEVERAGE STILL EXISTS. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE253641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AJRIMAS:DAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0936
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741134/aaaabcin.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUENOS AIRES 8324
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEROLINEAS (AA) CHARTER FLIGHT APPLICATION
TAGS: EAIR, AR, CAB, PANAM, AEROLINEAS
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005